



Adams County, Nebraska



VisitHastingsNebraska.com



about hastings



Hastings was born

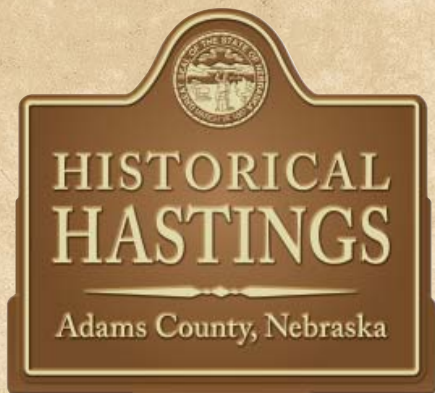
in 1872 when the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroads made the surprising decision to cross the Burlington Railroad not at Juniata, the county seat at the time, but seven miles east near the small homestead of determined English settler Walter Micklen.

The city of Hastings was named after Thomas D. Hastings, construction engineer of the railroad. Mr. Hastings never actually lived in town. Instead, the promising location was named through an alphabetical system used by the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad lines.

Thanks to the ambitious entrepreneurship of C.C. Ingalls and F.J. Benedict who opened the first lumberyard; George Pratt and Charles Lawson who established the first grocery and hardware store; and Samuel Alexander's general store, Hastings quickly became an important business and trading center.

In the first decade, Hastings grew to a town of 3,000 citizens. With the addition of a post office, church, school, bank and sidewalks, Hastings was thriving. In 1878, after a five-year battle with Juniata, Hastings was awarded the county seat. Five years later, when the first classes began at Hastings College, Hastings was well on its way to becoming the city of more than 25,000 that you see today.

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history & culture



Immerse yourself in art, music or a theatrical performance. Soak up the history – the trials and adventures of pioneers, the architecture and craftsmanship of historic buildings and homes. Hastings' thriving arts community and active historians bring it all to life!



Within the walls of **Hastings Museum** you'll find hundreds of natural animal dioramas, pioneer and Native American exhibits, a history of weapons on the plains and so much more to educate and entertain your whole family. Be sure to check out the interactive Kool-Aid exhibit!



Hastings Museum also houses the **J.M. McDonald Planetarium**, which offers you a



peek at the nighttime sky with daily live shows, and the five-stories-tall **Lied Super Screen Theatre**, which offers awe-inspiring, larger-than-life movies.

Walking tours give you insight into the history of Hastings, including an insider's view on historic buildings and famous landmarks. On the edge of town, bunkers are a reminder of Hastings' significance during World War II – the **Naval Ammunition Depot** provided 40 percent of the Navy's ammunition supply at one point during the war.



The Children's Museum of Central Nebraska is a great place to play and learn.



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Hastings Museum offers a variety of educational and interactive displays – and a whole lot more.



The harmonies of the Hastings Symphony and the grand voices of the Chorus of the Plains vocal group offer impressive performances throughout the year. The Listening Room hosts singers and songwriters from across the country for memorable live shows in an intimate setting, while the Hastings College music department offers a variety of opportunities to enjoy live performances throughout the academic year.

On stage, comedies and dramas performed by Hastings Community Theatre and the Hastings College Theatre Department are certain to entertain. You'll also find art and photography galleries to inspire your creativity. Visit HastingsCalendar.com to learn about what is happening while you are in town.



Chorus of the Plains is one of several vocal groups that perform throughout the year.



From comedies to dramas, the Hastings theatre scene is great entertainment.

Photo Credit: DS Design Photography

VisitHastingsNebraska.com



Kool-Aid: Discover the Dream



Paleontology Dig Site



Authentic Log Cabin

Where Learning Is An Adventure!

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Hastings Museum
of Natural and Cultural History

J.M. McDonald Planetarium
Lied Super Screen Theatre
and much more!

14th & Burlington • Hastings, Nebraska • 1-800-508-4629 • www.hastingsmuseum.org



diversions



All signs point to sporting fun and good eats in Hastings – with a variety of shopping delights sure to draw your attention.



A medley of restaurants offers authentic local flavors – from cozy quiet spots, to places where you can cheer on your favorite team, to cafés that serve food “like mom used to make.” If you’re hungry for a genuine Nebraska steak, several local choices are sure to satisfy.



Shopping in Hastings is a treat with unique local shops and department stores. From the **historic downtown** to new developments,



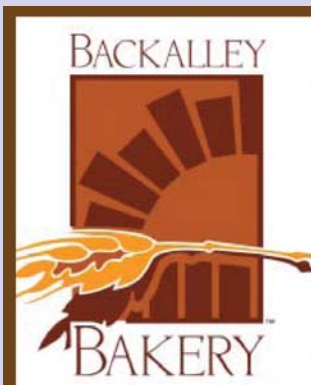
you will find the latest fashions, antiques, hot technology, collectibles and more waiting just for you.

Exploring shops and eateries is a great way to spend time – but that’s just the beginning of a long list of diversions you can find.

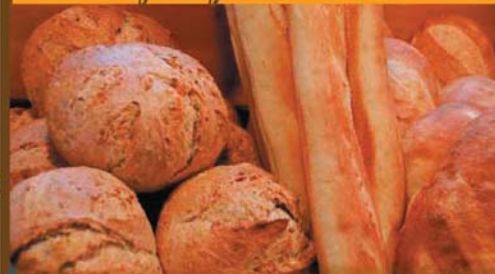
Hastings’ love of sports began with the historical **Duncan Field**. The red brick fenced jewel hosted baseball stars Johnny Hopp and Yogi Berra in their youth.



Historic downtown Hastings is a destination for shopping, dining and entertainment.



Enjoy. Devour. Sip. Savor.



*Enjoy fresh baked bread.
Devour homemade pastries.
Sip fresh roasted coffee.
Savor good conversation.*

Located downtown at 609 West 2nd Street • backalleybakery.com



Walking tours of bronzes and historic buildings begin in downtown Hastings.



The PRCA Oregon Trail Rodeo and similar events are held annually at the fairgrounds.

Hastings YMCA is a great place for family fun.

Some of the best softballers in the country make their way to the **Smith Softball Complex** for state, regional and national tournaments held throughout the spring, summer and fall. The facility's meticulously groomed diamonds are the best in the state, while accommodations for fans are top notch. The site also houses the **Nebraska Softball Hall of Fame**.

Hastings also boasts three beautiful golf courses that are designed for players of all skill levels.

Motorsports Park Hastings (MPH) is a destination for those who like to drive fast – from cars to motorcycles.

For a great workout or simply an afternoon of fun, the **Hastings YMCA** offers two locations packed full of gyms, courts, pools, water slides, a two-story climbing maze and more. It's the ideal stop for families looking to burn off some energy.

VisitHastingsNebraska.com



OPEN DAILY!

FAMILY FUN!

Hastings Family YMCA

- Two facilities
- Three indoor waterslides
- Swimming pools
- Rock tread wall
- Two-story adventure maze

- Wee Village for toddlers
- Huge arcade
- Trampoline Jump Shots
- Racquetball courts
- Tennis courts

- Indoor batting cages
- Indoor Track
- Cardio and weights
- Steam room, hot tub
- Birthday Parties

Open to YMCA members and non-members. Affordable daily rates available.

1220 West 18th Street & 1480 West 16th Street • Hastings, Nebraska • 402.463.3139 • hastingsymca.net



**SLIPPERY
WHEN WET**



Down the slides, around a lazy river and through darting streams of refreshing water – don't miss your chance to ride the waves and enjoy some fun in the sun. You'll find it all at the **Aquacourt Waterpark**, a five-acre, family-friendly complex that is Hastings' coolest attraction!

In other parks around town you'll find a splash pad filled with water cannons and jets that are bound to cool off the young and young at heart, while two wading pools provide safe cool-spots for tots and younger children who love to splish-splash.



Still looking for more water fun? Try the swimming area at Lake Hastings for the entire family.

*Water and light
fill the sky*

Imagine life during the Dust Bowl, during the Great Depression of the early 1930s. Times were tough and many rural homesteads did not yet have electricity. In Hastings, the Adams County Fair was in trouble and in 1932 there was no money for prizes or exhibits.



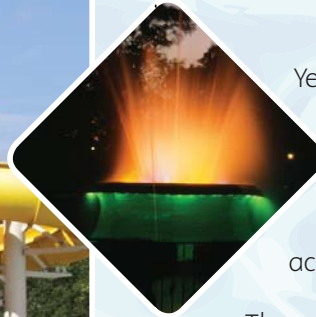
A Water Playground, at Libs Park, is one of several cool, free spots in Hastings parks.



Family Water Slide
Flute Slide
Tube Slide
Children's Playground
Drop Slide
Diving Board
Lazy River
Canopies
Wave Pool
Zero Depth Entry
Climbing Wall

Located on West 2nd Street • 463-1016 • cityofhastings.org/parks

Multiple water slides are some of the many fun features at the Aquacourt Waterpark.



Yet the citizens of Hastings pulled together and held the Electrical Exposition, an extravaganza with displays contributed by electrical supply companies from across the United States.

The most spectacular of all displays, the **Fisher-Rainbow Fountain**, mixed jets of water soaring into the sky with colorful electrical floodlights for a fantastic effect. This historical symbol of the solidarity and faith of the people of Hastings stands today, entertaining townspeople and visitors alike from Mother's Day through Labor Day. On a warm summer day, the cool jets are a treat – and in the evening, the lights are magic.



Lake Hastings is home to a variety of fun activities and events.



The Hastings YMCA offers indoor pools and water slides

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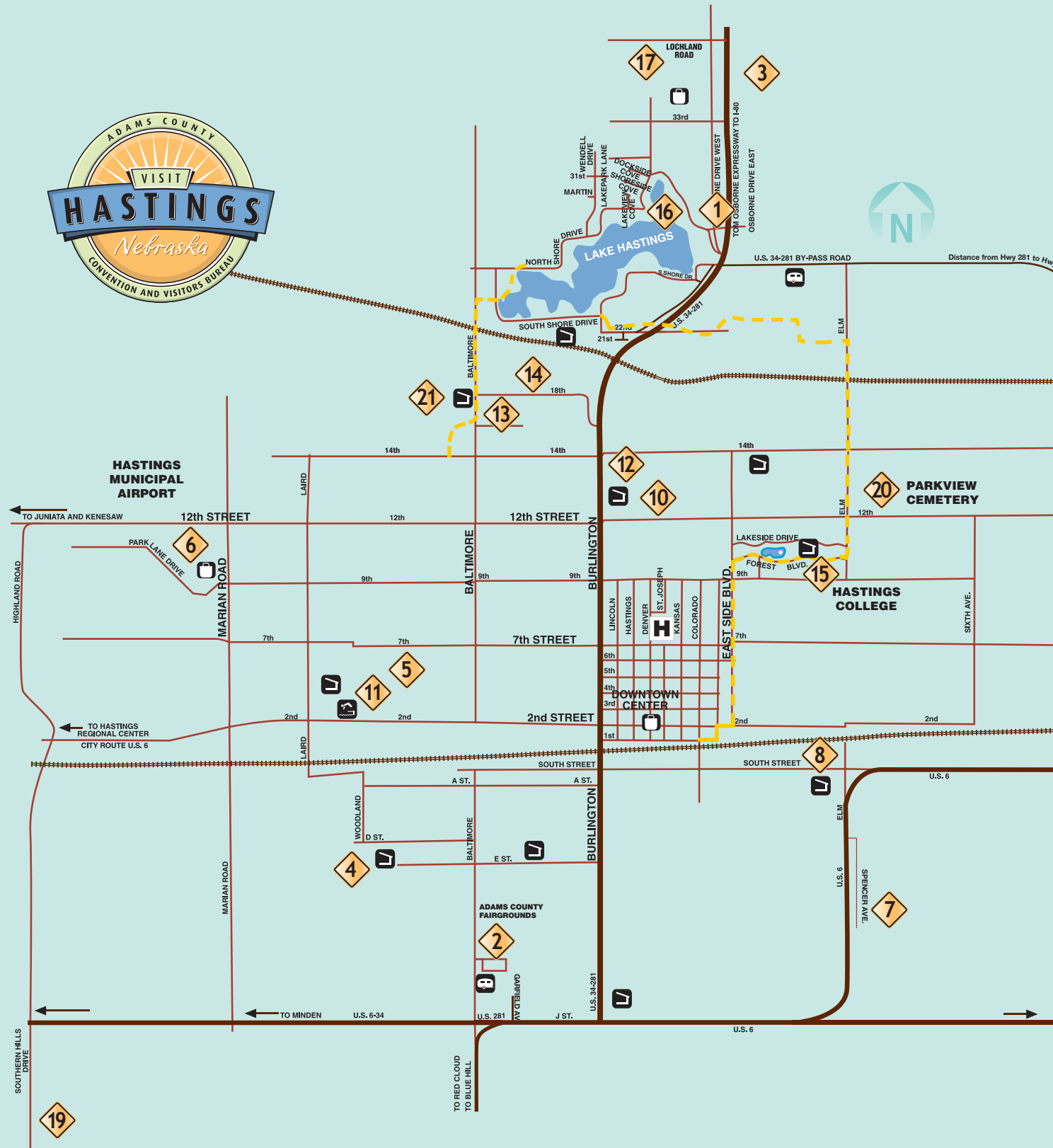
Bowling Center & Outdoor Fun Park

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finding your way

H Hospital

P Park

S Shopping

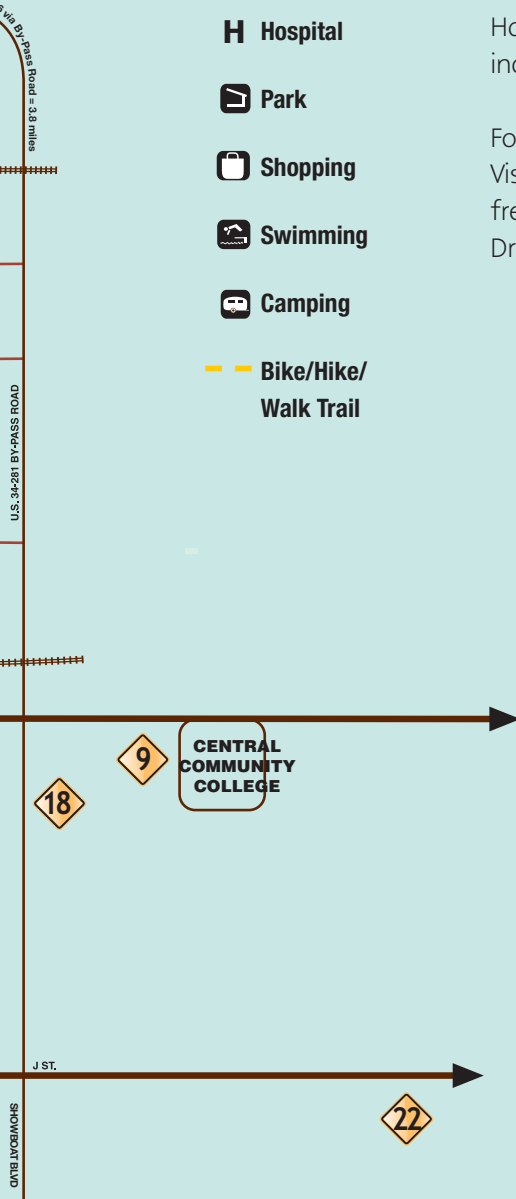
Swimming

C Camping

**Bike/Hike/
Walk Trail**

Hastings is a great place to explore – and is easy to navigate. The map provided here includes some important details and main stopping points.

For a more detailed map and the latest visitor information, be sure to check out VisitHastingsNebraska.com or contact the Visitors Bureau at (402) 461-2370 or toll free at (800) 967-2189. You can also stop by the Visitor Center at 100 North Shore Drive, which is item 1 on the map.



1 Visitor Center

2 Adams County Fairgrounds

**3 Bill Smith Softball Complex
& NE Softball Hall of Fame
at Prairie Ridge Park**

4 Brickyard Park/Amphitheater

5 Chautauqua Park/Pavilion

**6 Children's Museum of
Central Nebraska**

7 Dog Park

8 Duncan Field

9 Elks Country Club

**10 Fisher Fountain
Holiday Island**

**11 Hastings Aquacourt Family
Waterpark**

**12 Hastings Museum/Lied
Super Screen Theatre/
JM McDonald Planetarium**

13 Hastings YMCA (16th Street)

14 Hastings YMCA (18th Street)

15 Heartwell Park

16 Lake Hastings

17 Lochland Country Club

18 Motorsport Park Hastings

19 Southern Hills Country Club

20 Veteran's Monument

21 Water Playground

22 WWII Ammunition Depot

VisitHastingsNebraska.com

Off Road Permitted

get outdoors



In Hastings you can find more than 300 acres of parks, several of which are connected by the 5.5-mile Pioneer Spirit Trail.



The **Pioneer Spirit Trail** is a wide, paved meandering path that connects historic downtown to Heartwell Park, Hastings College, scenic rural views, Lake Hastings and Libs Park.



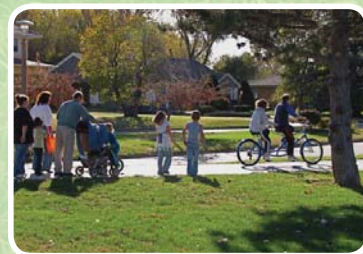
Ball diamonds, basketball courts, disc golf, tennis courts and – of course! – playground equipment are located in many of the city's parks. Most parks have covered picnic areas and a place to fire up the grill, while some feature water to splash in or a place to try your luck with a fishing pole.



In **Brickyard Park** you'll catch a glimpse of an old brick-making factory and find a great sledding hill if the weather is right.

Chautauqua Park is the home to the largest pavilion in Nebraska. Built in 1907, the pavilion is the center of many activities throughout the year.

Heartwell Park, with scenic views of calm water and historic homes, is a great spot for walkers, joggers and bike riders.



The paved Pioneer Spirit Trail winds through several parks.

Motorsport Park Hastings



2.1 Mile Asphalt Road Course

www.racemph.com

427 South Showboat Boulevard
Hastings, Nebraska 68901

402-461-8031



Peaceful scenery in and around Hastings has inspired artists for generations.



Parks offer a place to play – and connect with nature.

Bird lovers flock to Hastings for the annual sandhill crane migration.

A hot spot for birds

Grab your binoculars and head out on the open road! Avid birders and those who enjoy beautiful scenery will find a lot of zoom-worthy sights all around Hastings.

Located in the heart of North America's central flyway, south central Nebraska is a major stopping point for millions of birds of all species. Throughout the year more than 250 species of waterfowl flock to the area! Add to that the annual spring migration of sandhill cranes – one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on the continent – and you can see why thousands of people come each year to enjoy these incredible sights and sounds.

VisitHastingsNebraska.com

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FUN AHEAD



It's in the air! Live music. Food. Laughter. Good times. You can find them throughout the year in Hastings, which plays host to a number of events and festivals.

The **Cottonwood Festival** is a Nebraska classic! This three-day festival held in historic Brickyard Park each June celebrates fine and performing arts and brings artists, musicians and crafters to one beautiful outdoor setting. Food vendors dot the landscape and assorted activities bring out the artist in everyone.

If you just can't miss an authentic fair, the **Adams County Fairfest** is the place to be each July. Held at the fairgrounds,



Fairfest boasts concerts by top-notch musicians and smash 'em up demolition derbies. Plus carnival rides, lots of free entertainment and – a highlight for many fairgoers – the food!

Hastings celebrates all things Kool-Aid each year in August during **Kool-Aid Days**. The world's largest Kool-Aid stand serves up classic flavors and some you've never tried before. There are also concerts, contests and dozens of family-friendly activities. Come and celebrate the sweet concoction with fans from around the world.

This is just a snapshot of the many festivals and events that are held in Hastings each year – visit **HastingsCalendar.com** for a current event listing.



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Kool-Aid Days serves up cool fun in a variety of flavors!



The Kool-Aid® connection

What's your favorite flavor?

Born in Hastings more than 80 years ago, Kool-Aid brings colorful smiles to fans worldwide. As the life of Kool-Aid inventor Edwin E. Perkins shows, the values of hard work and determination are a sure success story. With only a small hand printing press and an ambitious spirit, Perkins' childhood passion for creating and marketing concoctions from his mother's kitchen to his own inventions eventually led to Kool-Aid, a household favorite and Nebraska's state soft drink.

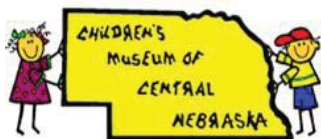
The interactive exhibit **Kool-Aid: Discover the Dream** at Hastings Museum commemorates the iconic drink and allows visitors a hands-on experience of everything Kool-Aid. Rediscover a piece of your childhood and share with your kids a treat popular across generations. The exhibit is bound to excite and evoke great memories!

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Brickyard Park hosts several festivals and gatherings throughout the year.

Check out HastingsCalendar.com for a listing of current events.



www.cmocn.org

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and adults learn to play!

Hands-on Learning at its Finest

Children's Museum of Central Nebraska

12th and Marian Road • Imperial Mall • 402-463-3300



*A place to appreciate art and
be inspired by local artists.*

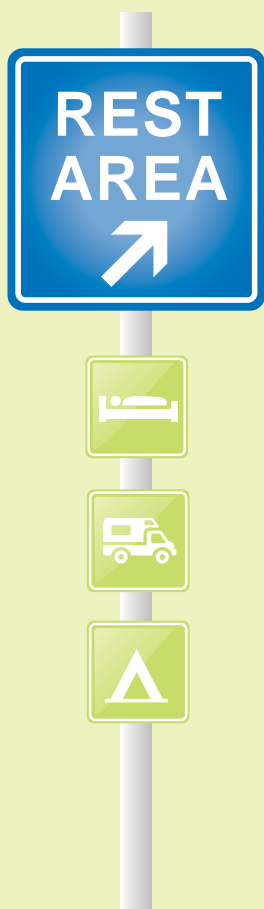
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30-5:30

Thurs 9:30-8 Sat 9:30-4

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lodging

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comfortinn.com/hotel/ne004

Grand Motel

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Holiday Inn Express

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heartlandhospitality.com

# of Rooms	Continental Breakfast	Handicap Rooms	Indoor Pool	Meeting Room	Outdoor Pool	Pets Allowed	Restaurant on site	Truck Parking
41	■				■	■		■
40	■	■	■			■		■
61	■	■		■	■			
17	■	■						■
90	■	■	■	■				■

campgrounds

Adams County Fairgrounds

947 South Baltimore • 402-462-3247

Hastings Campground

302 East 26th Street • 402-462-5621



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Midlands Lodge 910 W J Street 800-237-1872 • 402-463-2428	47	■	■			■	■		
Quality Hotel & Convention Center 2205 Osborne Drive East 402-463-6721	101		■	■	■		■	■	■
Rainbow Motel 1000 W "J" Street 800-825-7424 • 402-463-2989	31	■	■				■		■
Super 8 Motel 2200 N Kansas Avenue 800-800-8000 • 402-463-8888	50	■	■				■		■
USA Inns 2424 Osborne Drive East 800-348-0426 • 402-463-1422	62	■	■				■		■

Hastings offers a variety of lodging opportunities, with friendly, affordable and comfortable options for everyone from business travelers to families.

Hotels around town provide a range of amenities, allowing you to choose the spot that suits you best. Meanwhile, a number of campgrounds give you a chance to pitch a tent under the stars or comfortably park an RV.

The list of available lodging options included here is a great resource, but check out VisitHastingsNebraska.com for the latest lodging information and special travel package offers.

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**Hastings and Adams County
Convention & Visitors Bureau**

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Hastings, NE 68902

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Toll-Free: (800) 967-2189

Email: info@visithastingsnebraska.com

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